

Mountaineer

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Fort Carson welcomes vice president



Photos by Douglas M. Rule

Vice President Dick Cheney, left, was greeted with waving flags and lots of cheers when he addressed Soldiers, civilians and family members at Butts Army Airfield Friday. Cheney praised the work the Soldiers of Fort Carson have been doing in Afghanistan and Iraq. "This nation loves our military because it represents the best values of a generous and idealistic country. When we look at the armed forces of the United States, here is what we see: an all-volunteer force, serving and sacrificing for this land," Cheney said. Following his speech, Cheney circled around the security perimeter, above, shaking hands and talking with Soldiers. See page 5 for the complete story. A full copy of the text of his speech is available through www.defenselink.com on the page containing the story of his visit.

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MUST SEE



Celebrating the first Americans...
See Pages 26-27

Word of the month: **COMMUNICATION**

Cavalry Soldiers take a right-seat ride with 3rd HBCT

by Pfc. Ben Fox

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq — Experience is a valuable asset on the battlefield. Knowing where dangerous places are and what techniques work in an area of operation can essentially save a Soldier's life.

Not every Soldier has experience on the battlefield, though. Not every Soldier has seen danger spots and effective methods in an area of operation. Without this prior knowledge, there needs to be a means to prepare Soldiers for their overseas assignments.

Transition is the answer.

When the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division stepped foot into Iraq, many Soldiers didn't have previous war-time experi-

ence and most elements of the war have changed since the brigade's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To gain knowledge of the area and current situations, the 3rd BCT Soldiers learned from the experiences and procedures of the unit they replaced — the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division — during a transition period called right-seat ride and left-seat ride, which began Oct. 21 and will end with the brigade's transition of authority ceremony, Nov. 3.

Right-seat ride consists of the incoming unit observing and learning methods from the unit it is replacing. About a week later, the left-seat ride occurs and the incoming unit takes over operations while the outgoing unit watches and helps the new unit fall

See **Cav Soldiers** on Page 7

Remembering our veterans

**Commentary by Maj. Gen.
Robert W. Mixon Jr.**

*Division West, First Army and Fort
Carson commanding general*

*"We owe these veterans a debt of
gratitude, indeed a debt of honor."*

— **President George Washington**

This Saturday, while many of us are enjoying the long holiday weekend and all the wonderful events associated with Veterans Day, I would ask that you take a moment to remember the sacrifices of our veterans which enable us to enjoy the liberties and freedoms we have today.

Veterans Day is a day to honor the sacrifices of the men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present.

For more than 231 years, the American Soldier has defended our borders, our people and our way of life. When others turned away, it was our veterans who were willing to stand up, be counted and put their "Boots on the Ground."

From the early days of the American Revolution through the trial of our Civil War, from the trenches of World War I to the beaches of Normandy and the Pacific island battles of World War II, from the frozen mountains of Korea to the sweltering paddies of Vietnam, from Grenada and Panama to Operation Desert Storm, and now in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, American Soldiers have answered the call to duty.

Today we are engaged in a "Long War" against an enemy who knows

neither negotiation nor compromise. This enemy fights because he knows the survival of his hateful ideology is at stake. He knows that if freedom takes root in Iraq, it will inspire millions across the Middle East and other countries to stand up against extremism and oppression and fight for liberty.

The road ahead will not be easy, but like the "greatest generation" which was victorious over a hateful ideology in World War II so, too, will America's sons and daughters be victorious in the Global War on Terrorism.

So, on this Veterans Day as we gather with friends and family, take a moment to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Remember the missing, celebrate the living, and recognize all who



Mixon

today fight to defend America's freedom. God bless you and keep you safe this Veterans Day weekend, and may he continue to bless our Armed Forces

Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade
Saturday, 9 a.m., on Tejon Street from St. Vrain Street to Vermijo Ave.

Pueblo Veterans Day Parade
Saturday, 9:30 a.m., begins at B Street and Union Ave. to
6th Street and Court
Veterans Day Service at the Pueblo Convention Center
Saturday, 11 a.m.

Colorado Springs Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park
Saturday, 11 a.m.

**Denver Veterans Day Parade followed by
Iraq/Afghanistan Colorado War Dead Honor Roll Reading at
the Colorado Veterans Monument in front of the State Capitol**
Saturday, 10 a.m.



Honoring our heroes

by Douglas M. Rule

*Chief, Command Information, Fort Carson
Public Affairs Office*

About this time of year, Abraham Lincoln gets quoted a lot. "Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."

Lincoln was right. Good leaders know that. There is an importance in honoring those who serve their country or community well. Even the U.S. learned this lesson by making a big mistake. Vietnam-era veterans were not greeted home as heroes, even those whose heroic actions earned them some of this nation's highest honors. They served honorably and it wasn't until later that they and their fallen comrades were honored as they should have been.

I was in Washington, D.C., when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated. There had been a lot of controversy over how the memorial should look and where it should be. Then-Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, whose agency was responsible for the area where the memorial was set, insisted on a lot of changes, including that flags be added. After some negotiations with the volunteer group that was financing the project, the flags were placed in a location that honored the nation without detracting from the memorial. Later there would be statues erected honoring those men who served but returned alive, those women who served in Vietnam as well, and a memorial plaque for those who returned and as a result of injuries sustained in the war, died later on, but did not meet the Department of Defense criteria for being included on The Wall.

It was an unusual day in November 1982. The war officially ended more than seven years earlier. The dedication started off with a parade of sorts with Vietnam War veterans, many wearing their uniforms they had saved. It was much like a party more than a memorial. But that changed.

Thousands of veterans, relatives and friends surrounded the area, yet it was the quietest the mall had ever been. As the dedication proceeded, there was not a dry eye. Men who had been joking around minutes earlier with war buddies they hadn't seen in years were hugging each other in tears. To many, this was the beginning of healing that should have happened years earlier.

I went to find a friend's name on the wall when the ceremony was over. Because of the crowd, I didn't realize the impact The Wall would have on me. Although there were thousands of people there, the realization of how many people were finally being honored after their death was staggering. I eventually found his name, Douglas Doody, who was a military policeman on duty defending the U.S. embassy in Saigon during the Tet Offensive in 1968. Although he was somewhat older than me, I remembered him as being the bigger guy who was the bus monitor for my school bus at Camp Darby, Italy. His dad and my dad had served together several times throughout their Army careers, and they both retired to Akron, Ohio. Somehow his name on that black wall seemed a little unreal. Could this really be that guy who made me sit down, who made sure that I, a little first- or second-grader, got safely on and off the bus?

Then there were others in the crowd. There were

the families left behind, some with children who may not have remembered their own lost parent. There were brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and grandparents. There were best friends and neighbors. There were those who were there who may not have known anybody in the war but felt that America owed these veterans the respect they deserved. It really was healing.

Since then there have been millions of visitors from around the world who were at The Wall. People have left notes and tokens of remembrance. The National Park Service clears the memorial daily and archives those items left, exclusive of flowers or food. The Smithsonian Museum of American History displays many of these items on a rotating basis.

Since then, Americans have not made that mistake. By not honoring our heroes, America suffered. Men and women felt distanced. The military was not in a place of respect that it deserved. But things have changed and for the better.

The Wall, a traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, has come to towns across this nation, especially important to those families who may not be able to visit the memorial in Washington, D.C. One can also visit the "Virtual Wall" at www.vvmf.org.

At the front gate, we have a memorial to those from Fort Carson who have lost their lives fighting the Global War on Terrorism. Unfortunately, I also know someone on that wall as well. But his family, friends and fellow comrades didn't have to wait years to know that his country and his fellow citizens respected him and the sacrifice he made.

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NEWS

Korean War hero returned to family

by Gregory Frye

Fort Campbell Courier

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — After more than 50 years of waiting, hoping and praying, the family of a Korean War hero can rest easier knowing their Soldier is finally home.

The remains of Pfc. Francis Crater Jr. were buried in the family plot in Akron, Ohio, Oct. 21 — nearly 56 years after his death.

Crater's great nephew, a current Soldier, was one of more than 250 people who attended the funeral.

"He was part of our family and meant a lot to us," said Staff Sgt. Bob Jenkins, motor sergeant, 106th Transportation Battalion, Fort Campbell. "As I grew up, I always knew about my Uncle Shorty."

Shorty was Crater's nickname. Standing at 5 feet, 3 inches, the Ohio native was the youngest of three children.

Glenn Crater, Francis' older brother and Jenkins' grandfather, is the only immediate family member alive to see his brother's remains brought home.

"It profoundly affected me because

it meant so much to my grandfather," Jenkins said. "I had to give the eulogy and kept choking up because I would look at my grandfather and see him crying. It really meant a lot to him."

The experience has been very emotional for Glenn Crater, who thought they would never hear anything about the fate of his younger brother and was shocked when he heard the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command found him.

Fate of a hero

"I'd like the world to know there was a Francis Crater," Glenn said. "He was a good kid, never got into trouble ... an average young guy growing up. When he was 18, his friend decided to join the Army, and Francis joined, too."

"There were a lot of people lost over there the same time my brother was," Glenn said.

Francis was killed in Korea as he fought the enemy off his fellow Soldiers, hopping back and forth between machine gun nests.

Charles Rachac, who now lives in Michigan, was one of only three people from the unit to survive the battle at Chosin Reservoir. They held their



Courtesy photo

ground for five days until the enemy finally prevailed.

"Crater was my assistant on the machine gun," he said. "He was a small guy but had a giant stature."

Rachac recalls the last meal he had

with Francis; the temperature was 40 below freezing, and their food was so frozen they could barely eat. "The last supper," he called it.

Pfc. Francis Crater Jr. is transported to his final resting place in Akron, Ohio, Oct. 21. Crater was killed during the Korean War in 1950, but his remains were not identified until recently.

Army fields its first light-weight howitzer

by Edward Murray and Martin Kane

The Picatinny Voice

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. — With the recent delivery of 18 new M777 lightweight 155 mm howitzers to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the King of

Battle — the field artillery's nickname — took a giant step forward.

The M777 is the military's newest field artillery weapon, a lightweight 155 mm towed howitzer developed jointly by the Army and Marine Corps. It will be the artillery system for the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.

The program is managed by a joint-service program office here. The weapon systems themselves are manufactured by BAE Systems with final integration and assembly occurring at the firm's Hattiesburg, Miss., facility.

The M777 is the first ground-combat system to make extensive use of titanium in its major structures to trim weight; the howitzer is 7,000 pounds lighter than the M198 weapon it replaces.

"The weight reduction improves transportability and mobility without impacting range or accuracy," said Joint Program Manager James Shields.

Shields said the system will be compatible with the entire family of 155 mm ammunition,

including the Excalibur precision munition when it is eventually fielded.

The 2-11 FA is part of the Army's fifth Stryker Brigade Combat Team. It recently completed new-equipment training and a live-fire battalion exercise using the basic M777 system at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Prior to receiving the M777, the 2-11 FA was an exclusively 105 mm battalion that was equipped with the M119 howitzer.

The M777 has the deployability advantages of lightweight system like the M119, but the firepower of a 155 mm weapon like the larger M198. Two systems can be transported on a C-130 at the same time.

The new howitzers have returned to Schofield Barracks, where they will be retrofitted with a digital fire control system in January to become M777A1s. The DFCS will provide the howitzer with the capability to communicate, navigate and aim — an upgrade that will increase accuracy and responsiveness.

Soldiers from 2-11 FA said they were pleased with the new weapons and look forward to the added capabilities provided by the DFCS upgrade.



Courtesy photo

The new M777 howitzer is tested in Hawaii.

MILITARY

Vice President Cheney praises Fort Carson troops manning 'watchtowers of freedom'

Story and photos by

Douglas M. Rule

Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

Thousands of Soldiers from every unit on post greeted Vice President Dick Cheney Nov. 3 as he came to Fort Carson by waving flags and yelling, "Hooah!"

He recognized many units, such as the 10th Special Forces Group and assets

of the 43rd Area Support Group, including the 10th Combat Support Hospital, recently returned from supporting the effort in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, which is in the process of redeploying. He also saluted the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, which recently departed on its second deployment to Iraq.

"America has always counted on the Army to defend our country and man the watchtowers of freedom. And in our own time, Soldiers of the United States are repaying that confidence every day as we fight the War on Terror," Cheney said.

"I can't tell you how impressed I am by the work that is carried out at Fort Carson and how much I admire the caliber of Soldiers that are posted here. Your duties are not easy, but you carry them out with skill and

honor, and you play an absolutely vital role in the defense of this nation. I am proud to be in your company, and I bring the gratitude and good wishes from the commander in chief, President George W. Bush," he added.

Following his formal speech, Cheney awarded Purple Heart medals to two Fort Carson Soldiers: Spc. Ronald Hinkle, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Capt. David Vankamp, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd HBC, 4th ID.

Hinkle was injured in Iraq when the Humvee he was acting as gunner for hit an improvised explosive device. Shrapnel pierced his chest and arm. His right shoulder required the reattachment of nine of 13 ligaments. The shrapnel wounds resulted in a serious staph infection, necessitating his doctors to induce a coma to ensure his recovery.

Vankamp was providing security at a checkpoint in Iraq when a suicide bomber penetrated the perimeter. Vankamp sustained serious burns to his body. While this was his first deployment



Vice President Cheney applauds Capt. David Vankamp, center, and Spc. Ronald Hinkle, to whom he awarded Purple Heart medals.

to Iraq, Vankamp said that after he completes his branch advanced course, he is looking to return to Iraq and continue on with the effort there.

"He reinforced that the leadership is firmly behind us," said Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., commanding general, Division West, First Army and Fort Carson. "We are in a long war and it is important that the Soldiers know that they are supported from the highest levels."



Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., commanding general, right, introduces Vice President Dick Cheney during his visit Nov. 3.

Military briefs

Miscellaneous

Memorial service — A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel for Sgt. Norman Taylor, Staff Sgt. Ryan Haupt and Spc. Nathan Frigo of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team who were killed in action in Iraq.

Trial defense service hours — TDS hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. TDS is closed on Fridays except for appointments and emergencies. Chapters briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m., and Article 15 briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

New dental clinic hours — All dental clinics are open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sick call hours are from 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Hazardous Material Control Center — The HMCC reopened Oct. 11. All customers that received support prior to July 8 will again get support from this facility.

Finance in- and out-processing — The in- and out-processing section of finance has consolidated its operations on the second floor of building 1218. Travel and accessions moved from the first floor of building 1218 to the second floor.

Customers for in- and out-processing should go to room 230 in building 1218, sign in and wait for a technician. Phone numbers remain the same: separations 526-8473/8476/1302; retirement 526-4233/4234/8470; travel 526-9930/0507/0475; accessions 526-8479/8236/4558; and chief of in- and out-processing 526-6230.

ACAP relocation — The Army Career and Alumni Program Center has moved to building 1117, room 114. Soldiers should use the southwest entrance. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Veterans Administration relocation — The VA is now located in building 6220 on the first floor.

Harmony in Motion auditions — Harmony in Motion will hold auditions for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Auditions will be held daily at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, building 1129, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. For more information visit www.carson.army.mil/harmony or call Sgt. Scott Dickson at 524-3618 or 338-2340.

Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices move — Fort Carson's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices have moved to building 1218, rooms 164, 165 and 168. Telephone numbers remain the same.

TSP Pilot — Let the Thrift Savings Plan Pilot take the guesswork out of your TSP fund choice decisions (including the new L funds).

TSP Pilot's investment analysts give you optimized fund balance allocations you can plug into your TSP account Web site to maximize returns. A free issue is available.

Please allow a few moments for the page to fully load: <http://TSP-pilot.com>.

Environmental Health training — The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine offers heat category monitoring training, food service sanitation training and classes on hot and cold weather injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation and medical threat briefings. For more information on these classes call 526-7922 or 524-2238.

DPW services — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk can be reached at 526-5345. Use this

number for emergencies or routine tasks.

- Refuse/trash — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing or emergency service is required.

- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.

- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.

- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243.

- Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.

- Base operations contract Contracting Officer Representative — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.

- Portable latrines — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

CIF Hours

Regular business hours — The Central Issue Facility has changed its operating hours. The CIF is no longer open on Fridays. Soldiers may make appointments by calling 526-3321. Listed below are the new operating hours.

In-processing

Monday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Initial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Cash sales/report of survey

Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Direct exchange

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial turn-ins

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Full turn-ins

Monday-Thursday 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Unit issues and turn-ins

Call 526-5512/6477 for approval.

Hours of operation

Education Center hours of operation — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours are as follows:

- **Counselor Support Center** — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- **Learning Resource Center** — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing** — Monday-Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **Basic Skills Education Program/Functional Academic Skills Training** — Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **eArmyU Testing** — Monday-Friday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **Military Occupational Specialty Library** — Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Legal Assistance hours — Operating hours for the Legal Assistance Office are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Claims Division hours — The Claims Division

office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and closed federal and training holidays.

To make a claim, Soldiers must attend a mandatory briefing, which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the briefing, Soldiers must submit a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R. Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays.

DFAC hours — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

Wolf Inn — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

Butts Army Airfield — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Patton Inn — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

10th SFG — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Briefings

Recruit the Recruiter briefings — Briefings for anyone interested in becoming an Army recruiter are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 17 in building 1117, room 223. More information can be found at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter, by calling Sgt. 1st Class Neftali Perez at (800) 223-3735 or by contacting your unit career counselor.

Special Forces briefings — will be held Wednesdays at building 1217, room 305, from 10-11 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Soldiers must be E4-E6 from any military occupational specialty; have a general technical score of at least 100; be a U.S. citizen; score 229 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test; and pass a Special Forces physical. Call 524-1461 or visit the Web site at www.bragg.army.mil/sorb.


ACAP briefing — The Army Career and Alumni Program preselection briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP preselection briefings are held Monday-Thursday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m. to building 1117, room 114. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

ETS briefing — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at building 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave. Call 526-2240 for more information.



"Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers"

BOSS meeting — The post BOSS meeting, for BOSS representatives, meets the third Thursday of each month at Xtremes from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call 524-BOSS.

Cav Soldiers

From Page 1

Capt. Randall Crowder, the brigade's fire support officer and an Austin, Texas native, said the right- and left-seat rides are important to the incoming brigade's success.

Each year, the insurgents' tactics and leaders change, so even if a Soldier has been to a deployed zone before, everything he knew could possibly be changed, said Crowder.

The process helps the incoming Soldiers become familiar with their surroundings and their enemies, and even the nonkinetic aspects of the war, he said.

"You can only learn that from people who have been here doing it," said Crowder.

Pfc. Jeremy Crocker, Company A, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, just returned from his first mission and agreed with Crowder.

"The only way to do it is with guys who have been doing it for a year," said Crocker, a native of St. Louis.

Crocker, who went on a mission with Soldiers from 1-68th Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID on a right-seat ride, said the ride was helpful to him because he had never been in an actual combat situation before.

Without the other unit there, Crocker said it would have been more chaotic and confusing, but thanks to the 1-68th CAB Soldiers, he was able to keep his wits and understand how to react under moments of intense stress.

"I'm a lot better off (with the right-seat ride) than I would have been just jumping in here," said Pfc. Joshua Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

Taylor, native to Fort Lupton, is a radar operator

who tracks incoming indirect fire. The ride is invaluable to him and his team because they can't afford to get things wrong, he said.

"People's lives depend on us," said Taylor.

When he took the right-seat ride, Taylor said his counterparts gave him a sheet of helpful notes, which he will keep in his pocket the whole year.

The transitional exercise is particularly helpful because the war being fought in Iraq differs from many previous wars the military has been involved in, said Crowder.

"Each unit has its wins, and each new unit learns from the old's losses," said Crowder.

Having a plan of action before an incident occurs gives strength to a combat unit and the exercise helps to give that strength, he said.

"It sets us up to be proactive and not reactive," said Crowder.

Instead of having to learn everything from scratch, the brigade now has a head start on gaining intelligence and producing a battle rhythm, said Crowder.

For members of the outgoing unit, right- and left-seat rides are equally important so their successes can be built upon.

"Without right-seat ride, your entity would come



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division prepare to move to their next location as part of the preparation for the change of responsibilities.

in completely blind and not be able to take advantage of lessons learned — because those lessons learned save lives," said 1st Sgt. Jason Mosher, the first sergeant of the Police Transition Team at the Provincial Level from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID.

The right-seat ride process allows the incoming unit to learn tasks such as reaction drills, the meaning of reaction codes and how to conduct guard — redefined procedures the outgoing unit has massaged to help set the incoming unit up for success, said Mosher.

"In the cloud of war, it's real easy to get confused, so that's why we do these drills," Mosher said. "We do everything we can to mitigate those risks."



Photos by Michael J. Pach

QM unit activates

Above: Noncommissioned officers of the 549th Quartermaster Company, 68th Corps Support Battalion, pose after their activation ceremony Nov. 2 at Garcia Physical Fitness Center.

Left: Capt. Kenneth Zapanta, left, and 1st. Sgt. Vodricka Epps, right, stand ready to unveil their company flag. The 549th QM was activated on Fort Carson Oct. 16 and provides laundry, shower and clothing repair services to troops. Sgt. Robert Middleton describes the 549th QM as a "real morale booster" to Soldiers.

Why 'Army Strong?'

Commentary by

Lt. Col. Wayne Shanks

WASHINGTON — I have to admit when I first heard “Army Strong” I thought, “That’s it?” But as I’ve thought about it, Army Strong is much more than two words. It represents the best of the Army; the best of America; the best of each and every Soldier.

I think Army Strong works better if you imply “I am, you are or we are” Army Strong, but what does it mean to be Army Strong?

Army Strong is more than muscles; it’s the Soldiers who can endure long patrols, constantly alert for hidden dangers, or run faster and further than they ever thought they could.

Army Strong is more than sheer military might (tanks, helicopters, artillery, missiles, etc...); it’s the Soldiers who drive, fly or shoot all that hardware.

Army Strong is more than completing tough training; it’s parachuting out of an airplane at 800 feet when you’re scared to death of heights.

Army Strong is more than being smart; it’s having the knowledge and tenacity to develop a way to solve seemingly impossible problems.

Army Strong is more than combat operations that destroy an enemy; it’s the Soldiers and leaders who plan and execute it

— it’s ‘Boots on the Ground.’

Army Strong is more than the pungent smell of burnt gunpowder after a firefight; it’s the Soldiers whose well-aimed fire protected their buddies.

Army Strong is more than intelligence systems, unmanned aviation vehicles and global positioning satellites; it’s the Soldiers who bring that information to the leaders who can use it to stop an insurgent attack.

Army Strong is more than beans, bullets and repair parts; it’s the Soldiers who ship, manage, prepare, repair and move all the things that keep the Army rolling along.

Army Strong is more than just doing what’s right; it’s the Army values embodied by Soldiers who carry out their duties every day.

Army Strong is more than a “Welcome Home” sign taped to a fence; it’s the “Daddy, daddy, daddy!” yelled across a tarmac late at night and a long embrace at the end of a deployment.

Army Strong is more than an individual Soldier’s strength; it’s the teamwork of a well-trained squad executing actions on contact.

In short, Army Strong is far more than two words; it’s the underlying moral fiber, the deep-seated emotions and the total determination every Soldier carries.

No one can stop this team — it’s Army Strong.



Photo by Leslie Gordnier

Army all the way!

U.S. Military Academy Cadet Third Class Jason Schreuder carved a Halloween pumpkin saluting the new “Army Strong” campaign. Schreuder researched images he thought reflected those Army values.

Got news?

Send your story to
mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil

Korean

From Page 3

"He died with a lot of heroes up there," Rachac said. "I was fortunate enough to come back, and I don't know why. I've been living with this burden for a lot of years. I think everybody up there was wounded one way or another, mentally or physically."

Rachac jokes about how everyone used to "razz" Francis about his name.

"I never had a chance to say goodbye to him," he said. "He'll always be forever young; I'll always remember him as a 20-year-old."

Francis was killed Nov. 28, 1950. The next day his mother, Beatrice, received a telegram stating her son was missing in action but presumed dead.

"She always hoped he would come back, knocking at the door," Jenkins said of his great grandmother. "She went to her grave thinking that."

Until now, Crater's family was never sure what happened to him.

"We weren't sure if he was injured or killed," Jenkins said, "but these remains reveal that he was shot through the back of the head."

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Now, thanks to teams from JPAC, 88 percent of Francis' skeletal remains are finally where they ought to be. JPAC is a Hawaii-based military organization dedicated to finding fallen Soldiers.

"It's an important mission to our country," said Troy Kitch, deputy public affairs director for JPAC. "It's a valuable and honorable mission we're proud to be a part of."

"In the 1970s," Kitch said, "the mission was born out of the Vietnam War. People wanted to see their loved ones brought home."

Since then, the mission has evolved into JPAC. Investigation teams and recovery teams travel the world, covering all of the nation's wars in the past century.

"People deserve to come home and be buried with full honors," Kitch said.

JPAC has about 1,100 boxes of remains, 40 percent of which are from North Korea.

"When we have remains come in," Kitch said, "we analyze as much as possible. If we can't figure out who it is, it goes back on the shelf until we get more evidence."

Kitch stresses the importance of being absolutely positive about a

given identity before contacting family members.

JPAC needs mitochondrial evidence from living family members in order to identify many of the remains.

Rhachac encouraged Glenn Crater to send a blood sample to JPAC, which had actually found Francis' remains in 2000. Glenn's blood sample helped JPAC positively identify Francis' remains.

Pride and gratitude

Years after Francis' death, his family continued to keep his memory alive. Even Jenkins, who never met his great uncle, knew all about the family hero. At 9, he drew an award-winning picture of a Soldier standing behind a barbed-wire fence. Below he wrote: "this is my Uncle Shorty, and I hope he comes home one day."

Now that Jenkins is grown and in the Army himself, he appreciates what has been done for his Uncle Shorty.

"It was a shock," Jenkins said. "A lot of times people only find a tooth or bone fragment, but to hear they had found 88 percent of his skeletal remains — that was something special."

Jenkins admitted there were a lot of things his family didn't

know about Francis' military accomplishments until recently. No one knew, for instance, that he had been a part of three campaigns in Korea until seeing the three campaign medals on the uniform provided by the Army for the service.

"I'm glad these people have the conviction to exhaust every resource at their expense to set this right," Jenkins said. "These guys gave their lives to serve their country, and so their country should do everything in its power to get them back."

It seems to Jenkins that the Army is doing just that.

Glenn Crater was pleased with the service and everything the Army did to honor his brother.

"The Army really went all out after they found him to give him a proper burial," Glenn said. "We had the honor guard from Fort Knox, and a motorcycle group — they were lined up, holding their flags to welcome him home."

"I hope that if I'm ever in that situation," Jenkins said, "that I'll have the same courage my uncle did. I know I'll be thinking about it. It meant a lot to me."

Francis Crater Jr. is buried next to his mother in Greenlawn Memorial Park in Akron, Ohio.

COMMUNITY

Welcome Home



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Left: Family and friends cheer as Soldiers from 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion and 3-29 Field Artillery enter the Special Events Center Nov. 2.

Right: The Halls share a group hug Thursday at the welcome home ceremony.



Photo by Michael J. Pach



Photo by Rebecca E. Torn

The first homecoming signs redeployed Soldiers see while en route to Fort Carson hang on the pedestrian walkway over the westbound lanes of Academy Boulevard, east of Interstate 25. The inset photo is a close-up of three of the signs.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Left: Pfc. Saun Yeomans and his daughter Hailey share a special moment at the welcome home ceremony Nov. 2.

Right: Spc. Winslow Jones kisses his twin girls during the welcome home ceremony Nov. 2.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Community briefs

Miscellaneous

Open house for Modular Fuel System — The 68th Corps Support Battalion and Petroleum and Water Systems is hosting an open house, with a static display and a video of the new Modular Fuel System, for Fort Carson Soldiers and civilians, Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., in building 8152.

Federal Employee Health Benefit Fair — is for civilian employees, at the Elkhorn Conference Center, Thursday, noon-1:30 p.m.

Military Officer Career Night for high school students — Students and their parents are invited to attend an informational meeting regarding applying to a service academy or applying for a Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship Nov. 28. Registration begins at 5:30; presentation is from 6-8 p.m. at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall ballroom. RSVP by Nov. 26 to Maj. Kris Belcher at 964-1143 or Kris_Belcher@msn.com.

Celebrate Veterans Day — with the Falcon Wanderers of Colorado Springs. They will host a five- and a 10-kilometer Volksmarch, Saturday. The route starts and ends at the Police Operations Center, corner of S. Nevada Avenue and Rio Grande. Register anytime between 8:30 a.m. and noon and walk at your own pace. Dogs and children welcome. Participants will receive a Veterans Day commemorative patch. For more information call 648-9015, 499-8160 or 667-5662.

Fort Carson civilian employee walk-in flu clinic — The Occupational Health Clinic is offering free flu shots at building 2059 on Magrath Street, Nov. 27 and Nov. 29, from 1-3 p.m. and Nov. 28 and Nov. 30, from 8-11 a.m.

The Great American Smokeout — will be Thursday at the Fort Carson Post Exchange, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information call the Mountain Post Wellness Center at 526-3887.

Harr Avenue reconstruction — from Titus Boulevard north to Coleman Avenue will begin Monday and continue for approximately 12 months, in four phases. Phase one includes the Titus Boulevard intersection to a point south of the north entrance to Aleutian Circle, and weather permitting, will be completed by the end of February. The contract includes replacing all of the asphalt, pouring concrete curb and gutters on both sides of the road, and the construction of 800 linear feet of sidewalks along the east side of the road.

Military Officer Career Night for high school students — Students and their parents are invited to attend an informational meeting regarding applying to a service academy or applying for a Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship Nov. 28. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the presentation is from 6-8 p.m. at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall ballroom. RSVP by Nov. 26 to Maj. Kris Belcher at 964-1143 or Kris_Belcher@msn.com.

Fort Carson Restoration Advisory Board — Invites the public to learn about on-post environmental restoration projects. The meeting will be Thursday, at Elkhorn Conference Center, building 7300, at 6:30 p.m., and will serve as a public meeting for a Fort Carson-initiated Class 3 permit modification to the Fort Carson Hazardous Waste Permit. For more information call the Installation Restoration Program Manager at 526-8004.

Special Education Advisory Council — Parents, community members and school staff are invited to attend the Fountain-Fort Carson School District Eight SEAC meeting on Nov. 17 from 9-11 a.m., at Patriot Elementary School, 7010 Harr Ave., Fort Carson. Refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP, contact Peter

Babeu at 382-1569 or pbabeu@ffc8.org.

Redeployed? Bootcamp for New Dads — Preparing fathers and fathers-to-be for the challenges and joys of fatherhood. An exciting program developed and taught by dads; it is offered the first three Wednesdays of each month, from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161.

The first module is "Becoming a dad"; the second is "Caring for baby and hands-on training"; the third is "Caring for mom and graduation." Bring your own lunch. For more information call 526-4590.

Job openings — Fountain-Fort Carson School District Eight has openings for food service workers and delivery drivers. For more information call 382-1334 or apply in person at 11355 Old Pueblo Road in Fountain.

Teen Scene — Evans Army Community Hospital hosts a program for teenage mothers and moms-to-be the second Wednesday of each month in the third floor conference room. For more information call Rhonda Tulensa at 526-7030 or Carissa Sullivan at 526-7090.

Fort Carson community blood drive — The Bonfils mobile bus will be at the main Fort Carson Post Exchange, Saturday from noon-4 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Bonfils appointment center at (800) 750-4482, ext. 1.

No physical training zone — The area under construction, north of Ranges 69 and 5, should not be used for any training at any time. Construction is under way. The area is bracketed to the north by Khe Sahn Street, to the east by Berkeley Avenue, and to the west by Brown Road, Titus Boulevard and Specker Avenue.

Fort Carson fire department — will conduct a prescribed burn program, in accordance with permits issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and in coordination with the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, continuing into December, weather permitting. For more information contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office at 526-1264/4113. After hours contact the 24-hour Emergency Operations Center at 526-5500 and ask for the on-call public affairs officer.

Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management — Building 6287, near Prussman and Mekong, is being dismantled and demolished and will continue until Dec. 31. Stay out of the area and do not park within 100 feet of the building. Call Eldon Granger at 526-1687 for further information.

Child and Youth Services, Caring Saturdays — Free child care for families of deployed Soldiers is offered the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon to 7 p.m., in the East Child Development Center, building 6058. Families must bring a copy of their sponsor's deployment orders and their child's up-to-date immunization record. For reservations call 524-4218. For further information call 526-1101.

An Adoption Fair — will be held Tuesday at Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Topics will include: local and infant open adoption, foster adoption, interstate adoptions, international adoptions services, financial/military information and adoptive parent forum. For more information and to sign up by Thursday, call Peterson Air Force Base at 556-6141, Schriever Air Force Base at 567-9380, United States Air Force Academy at 333-3444 or Fort Carson's Army Community Service at 526-4590.

Evans Army Community Hospital — The correspondence division of the Patient Administration Department will be closing

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
ACS
Real-World Solutions for Successful Army Living

Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 1526
TEL: (719) 526-4590

Reunion BRIEFINGS



Reunion briefings can also be scheduled for specific units or FRG's by contacting your Unit Service Coordinator (USC) at (719) 526-4590.



**For dates & times
call, (719) 526-4590.**

Thursdays from noon-6 p.m. Release of information requests will not be taken during this time. This will create faster turn-around time for copies of records.

Ongoing road closures — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed until April. Questions about the closure or disruption of traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan, at 526-9267 or Fort Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson, at 526-4974.

Construction warnings — Repaving of the parking lot between buildings 6222 and 6236 and the large parking lot south of buildings 1010-1013 is under way and will continue until the end of November, weather permitting. Ignoring barriers or encroaching on the contractor's work site may result in ticketing and towing. During construction, detour signs should be honored and alternate parking spaces used.

Claims against the estate — Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Norman Taylor, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Aaron Earls at (270) 505-0107.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Staff Sgt. Ryan Haupt, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Nick Piergallini at (610) 217-7241.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Pfc. Nathan Frigo, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Todd Allison at (512) 636-7597.

A time to give thanks

by **Lorrie Pies**

Fort Carson Chaplain's spouse

"O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things." Isaiah 25:1

Touchdown! Soldiers are coming home and the crowds are going wild. The exciting days are finally here. Spouses, you've made it! I applaud you for you are unique. Very few people have trod the path that you have and are able to reach the end successfully.

Certainly the faithfulness of the Lord God brings about marvelous things. In all of this, I hope you have felt God leading you as you have been separated from your loved one. It is not an easy road to walk down. I pray that as you look back on this separation you will have found God to be faithful to you. You will remember the work that he has done on your behalf.

In this time of reflection, God in his faithfulness has grown you

into a person of substance.

Throughout the year, with all of its hardships, all of its loneliness, and all of its fears, internal strength has manifested. In "Chicken Soup for the Military Wife's Soul," one woman wrote, "It took a war to make me realize how important the 'army wife' is to the military — how important everything is that we, as military spouses, do to support our husbands, the army and our country." As you sit down to celebrate coming holidays, reunited with your Soldier at the family gathering, be reminded of God's perfect faithfulness to you.

Dr. Ralph Wilson put it perfectly in his article entitled, "Pray ... with Thanksgiving."

"When we remember what God has done for us in the past and think about who he is in the present — and express that in thankfulness — our prayers become more gentle, more trusting somehow. Thankful prayers are offered with faith. And faith is an essential ingredient for prayers that

God chooses to answer.

We remember the pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day, not so much for their turkey dinner, but for the sheer faith that inspired them to give

thanks in a year that saw nearly half their number die of sickness. Yet they prayed with thanksgiving."

So pray with thanksgiving. He's done great things.

Prayer of thanks:

Lord we exalt you and praise you. You are faithful to all. You have led our Soldiers and have led us down this path at this time. Although it has been difficult, we praise you for providing marvelously at just the appointed time. Now may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Chapel

PWOC fall studies — Protestant Women of the

Chapel meet Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Child care is provided free at the hourly day care center. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Fall studies are under way and include several selections. Contact Amy West for information on child care at 393-1390. For information on PWOC call Barb Styles at 598-0422. A special room for home-schooled children is also offered.

"Wilderness Trail" Protestant Sunday School Classes — With the theme of "Respect," classes will study Bible stories while having fun with music and games. Classes for all ages are each Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel, building 1500. This year's program is musical, energetic and fast paced.

"Christmas Around the World" — The Protestant Sunday School is preparing for a special Christmas event. Children are needed for many roles. Sign-up after Sunday School or the Protestant Worship Service.

AWANA — Because children matter to God! What is influencing your children? Today's children are influenced by so many things — the media, their friends, school and video games. AWANA teaches that God is real and loves them. AWANA clubs give clear guidance in a world full of conflicting messages. AWANA is an international, nondenominational organization whose goal is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ, and train them to serve. AWANA on Fort Carson is sponsored by the Fort Carson Chaplain Program and meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Volunteers are needed, call Stacy Chapman at 382-3970.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/576-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Communion	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/650-8042
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoan	Veterans'	Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-3888

JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

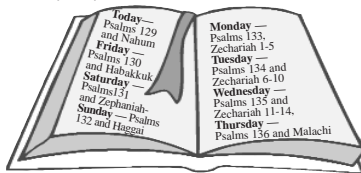
WICCA

building 4800, corner of Harr and O'Connell Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464

NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akcika Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel. These lodges are traditional Lakota spiritual ceremonies for cleansing, purification and prayer, and are fully sanctioned and supported by the Fort Carson Chaplain Command. Please call the following for information and directions: Charlie Erwin at 382-8177 or erwincl@msn.com; or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929.

Daily Bible readings: To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



The Army Cycle of Prayer — Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers of the 2nd Infantry Division, headquartered at Camp Red Cloud, Korea, with units forward deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Army: For Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield, commanding general, and the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the U.S. Army Cadet Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

State: For all Soldiers and families from the state of North

Carolina. Pray also for Gov. Michael F. Easley, the state legislators and local officials of the "Tar Heel State."

Nation: For the office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in their role to strengthen and expand grass-roots and faith-based services.

Religious: For those called by God to be a chaplain or chaplain assistant and for all who seek to understand God's call in their lives.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer visit the cycle's website at www.usarmychaplain.com.

Burns – ‘Bones’ Burns – licensed to fish

Story and photo by
Michael J. Pach

Mountaineer staff

If you've visited the reservoirs on post, you've probably seen Jerry Burns. Known as "Bones" by his friends, Burns is almost a permanent fixture at the reservoirs since he loves to fish. It's not unusual for him to spend two or three days a week fishing on post during fair-weather months. In fact, Burns fishes so much that he calls himself a "fish population adjuster."

Burns is an Army veteran who served on Fort Carson as a communications specialist with the 4th Aviation Group. He began his Army career at Fort Ord, Calif., in December 1974 and came directly to Fort Carson after boot camp. He spent his first 14 months on post with the color guard drill team before transferring to Butts Airfield with the 4th Avn Grp.

Burns appeared in the sports section of the *Mountaineer* Nov. 11, 1977. He was the gold medal winner for the high jump in the Iron Horse Week Track and Field Championships with a jump of 6 feet 2 inches. Burns remembers that day well.

"Jumpers were practicing at four-and-a-half to five feet," said Burns.

"I put the bar up to five-and-a-half feet for practice and beat it by about a foot."

The high jump was the last event of the day, and Burns waited until everyone else made their attempts before making his. After he completed his winning jump, the crowd rushed onto the field to congratulate him.

Burns was no stranger to high jumping at the time. He was a track star at Homestead High School in Cupertino, Calif., and broke the school's high jump record there with a height more than seven feet. That record still stands to this day.

After three years at Fort Carson, Burns spent three years on inactive reserve with the Army and eventually subcontracted as a field technician for Mountain Cable.

Approximately 22 years ago, Burns was the victim of an accidental shooting. The bullet that hit him broke a vertebra in his neck, paralyzing him from the neck down. Burns spent a year on a respirator at Craig Hospital in Denver.

Craig Hospital is world-renowned for the treatment of spinal cord and brain injuries, and doctors there did not expect Burns to walk again. After two years of persistence,

Burns proved them wrong.

"Very few people ever walk again after a spinal injury," said Burns. "The chances are very slim, but if you don't try, your chances are zero."

During his rehabilitation, Burns did not recover the use of his right arm, and it had to be amputated.

Burns was born in Canton, Ohio, and was raised near San Jose, Calif. His wife, Leilani, was his high school sweetheart, and they have been married for 31 years. Burns and his wife have four children and six grandchildren,

See **Burns** on Page 22



Jerry Burns fishes at Townsend Reservoir using his modified fishing poles.

Mountain Post Thanksgiving event

DFAC

Patton House (building 2161)

Wolf Inn (building 1444)

La Rochelle (building 7412)

Breakfast

7-8 a.m.

7-8 a.m.

7-8 a.m.

Thanksgiving Meal

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Dinner

4-5 p.m.

4-5 p.m.

Closed

Date

Nov. 23

Nov. 23

Nov. 23

Nontraditional Thanksgiving meal

DFAC

Butts Army Airfield (building 9612)

Breakfast

7-8 a.m.

Thanksgiving Meal

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Dinner

Closed

Date

Nov. 23

Personnel**Meal cost**

Meal Card Holders

No charge

Family members/
guests of E4 and below

\$5

Family members/
guests of E-5 and above

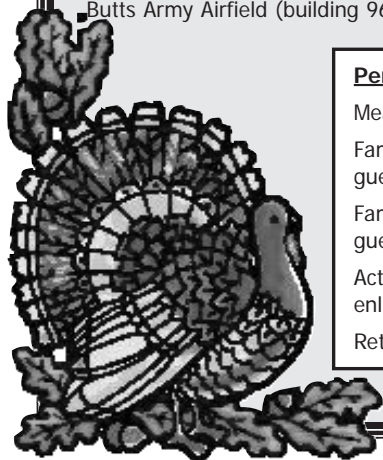
\$5.90

Active duty officers and
enlisted (BAS)

\$5.90

Retirees (all ranks)

\$5.90



FRG honors deployed Soldiers



Spouses and family members of the recently deployed 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, hang ribbons imprinted with their Soldiers' names on a spruce tree.

Story and photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Mountaineer staff

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, deployed last month to Iraq, and thousands of spouses and family members are preparing themselves for a long year and the holiday season without their Soldiers.

Each family has its own way of coping, and it usually involves staying as busy as possible, family members said. On Saturday, members of the 1-68th Combined Arms Battalion, Company G family readiness group gathered for a potluck and tree-decorating party. They wrote the names of all the Soldiers from Golf Company on yellow ribbons, then attached wires and hung the ribbons on an outdoor tree.

"I thought it would be a neat thing for all the families to get together, mingle and help out anyone who needs information and support. The tree is a family project, and this is our FRG meeting," said Bonnie Jean Poe, family readiness group leader of Company G and wife of Capt. Stephen Poe, commander.

Christmas music played, while children ran through the yard and the house playing hide-and-seek, and adults fed and rocked infants and stirred jambalaya and German meatballs. Poe made sweet tea, while she made her guests feel at home.

Ron Brown, whose wife Spc. Jessica Brown, is deployed for the second time, held their baby,

Taner, 5 months, while holding a sippy cup for their toddler, Justin, 2. Their oldest son Chris, 10, was outside playing. Justin helped himself to baby carrots in the kitchen then came back to his daddy for another sip of sweet tea. As soon as Brown put Taner in an infant carrier and sat down to eat, Taner started fussing.

"Just let dad eat first. Then I'll put you to sleep," Brown said.

Family members Louise and John Hampton moved to Colorado Springs from Washington to take care of their daughter and son-in-law's new home and two dogs. Their daughter, Sgt. Virginia Patterson, Company A, and son-in-law, Sgt. Brad Patterson, Company G, deployed shortly after buying a home. Hampton and her husband are familiar with deployments and being the one waiting at home.

"We are both retired Navy. Right now my husband is at Virginia's FRG meeting on post," said Hampton.

After Brown finished eating chili and Hawaiian banana bread, it was back to multi-tasking.

"The first deployment was easy; we only had one child. ... Bonnie Jean came over once already and relieved me for a day. It's good for me and it gives her something to do" — to distract her from missing her husband. He looked down at Taner, who was squirming in his arms. "I can't wait for his mama to get home," Brown said.

Burns

From Page 16

with the seventh expected in May.

Burns' wife encourages his fishing hobby, and his fishing buddy, Ralph Buse, thinks Burns is the best fisherman around.

Buse said he's been fishing for 50 years, but has only been catching fish since he met Burns five years ago.

"I can do it (fish) as well as anyone," said Burns.

Burns uses fishing poles modified with long handles so he can hold them between his knees while reeling in a lunger. His baits of choice are live night crawlers and red worms that he raises at home. He feels the best way to meet new neighbors is to show up on their doorstep with a couple of freshly cleaned trout.

Burns also enjoys teaching youngsters how to fish and said he is responsible for helping many children catch their first fish. He said that a child

catching his or her first fish makes a unique sound that can't be described on paper.

Burns' other hobbies include riding his three-wheel motorcycle with the Sons of Silence motorcycle club, magic and playing poker.

"If someone has a poker problem, I can cure it," said Burns.

Burns hasn't lost his sense of humor, joking about how he loves to take small boats onto the reservoirs but admits that rowing with one arm can be a challenge.

Burns also offers to help those with disabilities and has some sound advice.

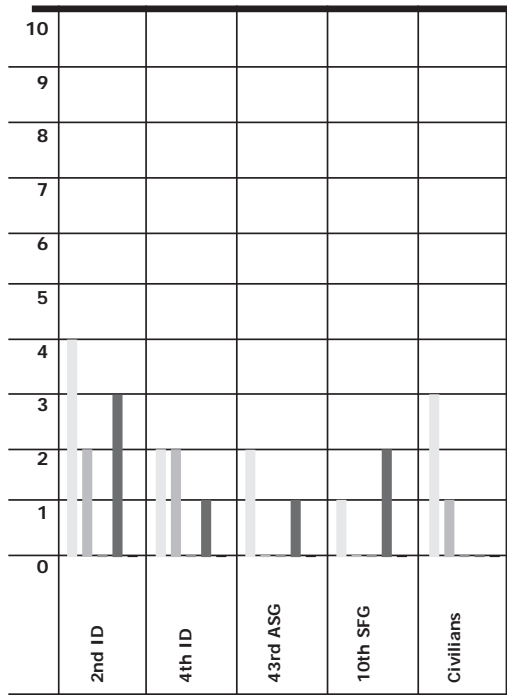
"You just can't give up," said Burns. "Don't dwell on what you can't do, dwell on what you can do and get good at it."

If you find yourself at a reservoir on post and see Burns or hear that indescribable sound of a child catching his or her first fish, make sure you take the time to say "hello." You might even get him to tell you a good fish story.

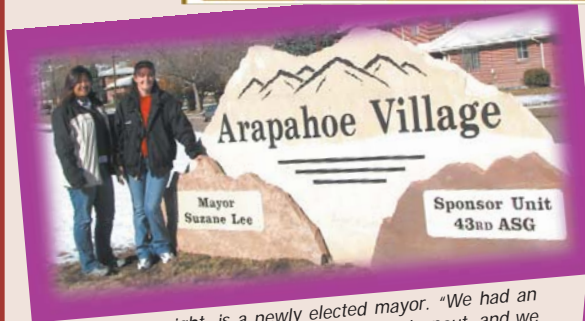
Cited violations for DUI, DWAI, Article 111

— Oct. 1-31

■ DUI (On Post)
■ DWAI (On Post)
■ UCMJ Art 111 (Drunken Driving)
■ DUI (Off Post)
■ DWAI (Off Post)



Meet the mayors



Suzane Lee, right, is a newly elected mayor. "We had an Arapahoe fall fest, Oct. 21. We had a great turnout, and we enjoyed meeting a lot of new people," Lee said. Lee can be reached at Suzane.Lee@yahoo.com.

Holly Shiffler, left, is a newly appointed deputy mayor. "We would like to thank everyone who came to our fall fest, and we are open to suggestions which will encourage village camaraderie," Shiffler said. Shiffler can be reached at 559-7974 or H.Shiffler@yahoo.com.



Kris Spiller, left, is serving her fourth term as mayor. "I remained in the program because I wanted to make a difference, and I think I have. The GMH (military and family housing) maintenance team has been wonderful. When I make a request for a safety issue, they always get it done. And I am blessed with my deputy mayor and youth mayor. I think the mayoral program is one of the best ways for someone to understand the workings of a military installation," Spiller said.

Stacey Perez, center, was appointed deputy mayor in April. "My goal is to make the village a better place and to help out as many people as I can," Perez said. Perez can be reached at 559-6097 or Stacey36Perez@yahoo.com.

George Perez, right, is a newly appointed youth mayor. "I help out the younger kids. I go up to the park and supervise them as they play."

Native American Heritage Month



Above: Steven Howell performs a hoop dance during the celebration at Waller Physical Fitness Center.



Right: Steven Howell performs an eagle dance.



Members of the Seven Falls Indian Dance Troupe entertain guests at the Native American Heritage Month observance held Nov. 2 at Waller Physical Fitness Center.



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelence Big Man dances in a jingle dress.



Left: Martin "Buffalo" Goodblanket performs a hoop dance at the Nov. 2 celebration



Guests are served traditional American Indian foods including fry bread, chili and soup.

Story and photos by Michael J. Pach Mountaineer staff

A celebration in observance of Native American Heritage Month was held at Waller Physical Fitness Center Nov. 2. The event was sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office and coordinated by equal opportunity advisor, Sgt. 1st Class Sean Miller.

The guest speaker was Carrie Howell, president of a local powwow group, Lone Feather, and 22-year manager of Seven Falls Indian Dance Troupe. Howell spoke about the history of American Indians and their contributions to our society and the military. She was also presented with a gift from Col. John C. Howard for her

service to our community.

Seven Falls Indian Dance Troupe entertained guests with several American Indian dances. The troupe performs regularly at local attractions such as Seven Falls, Garden of the Gods and Territory Days.

Visitors were treated to tasty American Indian foods, including fry bread and chili. Indian artifacts were also on display.

As the fastest-growing ethnic group in the nation, American Indians consist today of 550 distinct nations with almost 40 percent of their population under the age of 20. American Indians are thriving in the fields of education, business, health care and government and are contributing to the strength of the military.



Carrie Howell, center, is presented with a gift by Col. John C. Howard for her contributions to the community.

Military Family Appreciation Week November 18-22

FREE! Food, Fun and a Family Movie!
Kick off Military Family Appreciation Week at the Youth Center
(Building 5950; Ware Street) 526-4494

Bowl FREE All Week!
Kids up to age 18 • Three game limit • Shoe rental \$1.50
Thunder Alley Bowling Center (Bldg. 1511; Chiles Avenue) 526-5542

"Snuggle-up Story Time"
November 17: ~ 6:30 p.m. The Grant Library
(Bldg. 1528; Flint Street) 526-2350

"Get on the Bus" Ski Trips
November 18 ~ 22: ~ 5:30 a.m. departure
The Outdoor Recreation Complex (Bldg. 2429; Specker Avenue) 526-5366

FREE Video Messenger Service!
November 18 ~ 22: The Grant Library
(Bldg. 1528; Flint Street) 526-2350

Gel Candle Making Class
November 18: ~ 10:30 a.m. ~ 3:30 p.m. The Smith Craft Center
(Bldg. 2426; Wetzel Avenue) 526-0900

Adventure Youth Camp
November 20 ~ 22: ages 11 ~ 16
Adventure Programs and Education ~ APE (Bldg. 2429; Specker Avenue) 526-3907

Music and Movie Mania
November 21: ~ Noon ~ 4 p.m.
Freedom Performing Arts Center (Bldg. 1129; Specker Avenue) 526-1867

Swim FREE on Family Night!
November 22:
Indoor Pool (Bldg. 1446; Specker Avenue) 526-3107



MUSIC & MOVIE MANIA!

FALL SCHOOL VACATION CELEBRATION

Tuesday, 21 November • 12 pm - 4 pm
Freedom Performing Arts Center
Building 1129 • Corner of Specker Ave. and Ellis Ave.

Showing at 12:15
Are We There Yet? (PG)
Ages 4 and up • All children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult

FREE ADMISSION

Games include:
Movie Freeze Dance • Stage Musical Chairs
Freestyle Entertainment Showcase

For more information:
526-1867



Santa's Workshop Toy Drive Golf Tournament at Cheyenne Shadows

Sponsored by: the Fort Carson Officers & Spouses' Club*



Thursday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m.
Scramble format, threesome team
Cost \$25 + toy or \$25 + \$10 donation
Sack lunch provided
526-4122

"Keeping the Holiday Spirit alive for the children of Fort Carson"



Freedom Performing Arts Center
Wednesday, 15 November 2006
starting at 5 pm

presented by:

INTEGRITY
HOME THEATER

Don't miss this educational seminar on home theater technologies!
Topics we will cover include front projection, rear projection, and flat panel televisions, plus surround sound systems and overall home theatre design.

For more information, call 526-1867





Dinosaurs
are still
around
after all
these
years

The Triceratops dinosaur is one of several specimens in the Dinosaur Discovery Center.

Story and photos by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

Florissant has its fossils and early pioneer homestead but Woodland Park has palm trees and dinosaurs. One of the newest dinosaur museums, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center is in the small "community above the clouds" about 20 miles west of Colorado Springs on Highway 24.

The new facility opened in 2004, is about 20,000 square feet.

Although a large number of the dinosaur finds in museums throughout the world were discovered near Cañon City, about 40 miles away, none of the specimens in the Woodland Park facility are from Colorado.

Most of the dinosaur specimens in the RMDDC are from dig sites in South Dakota. The reptile and fish specimens came from Kansas sites.

Mike Triebold, of Triebold Paleontology, has been collecting fossils for many years and has dig sites in several states. He and his wife J.J. founded the Colorado facility; there



Above: The *Dolichorhynchops bonneri* is in the ocean room. **Right:** A giant *Mosasaur* is in the Rocky Mountain Discovery Center.

is a similar facility in North Dakota.

The company provides services such as paleontological exploration, restoration, mounting and replica casting, and its work is in several museums.

Along with its 30 displayed specimens, the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center provides education, entertainment and research.

Probably the best thing about the Dinosaur Discovery Center is its nearness. With just a 30-minute drive, families can see dinosaurs, learn about them, watch a video, have a tour and pick out their favorite dinosaur. There are also creatures from the sea to be seen.

Children especially seem to like dinosaurs, and the RMDDC encourages that with Woody's Hands-On Adventure where children participate in interactive exhibits and even participate in a "dinosaur dig." The RMDDC hosts school groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups and



Children try out the interactive exhibits in the children's learning center at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center.

Fa-pa-e-n-i-n-s



Places to see in the
Pikes Peak area.

Nov. 9, 2006

Dinosaur

From Page 29

offers a "Paleo Patch" program. The Program offers a one-hour tour for groups and a one-hour fossil workshop program, in which the Scouts earn a Paleo Patch.

And perhaps the ultimate experience for a child is to have a birthday party, surrounded by dinosaurs. To inquire about birthday parties, call 686-1820, ext. 112.

The Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center has three exhibit halls. The main hall is the Dinosaur Hall, and contains several dinosaur displays. There are also several winged reptile specimens hanging from the ceiling. A second, smaller room contains an *Albertasaurus* specimen in a fighting stance with an *Edmondasaurus*.

The third exhibit hall is the Prehistoric Ocean. Exhibits in this room are fish or reptiles that were found in Kansas. It may be hard to believe, but 83 million years ago much of Kansas was covered by a large sea. Several fossils, such as squid, giant clams, fish, reptiles, turtles and oyster shells have been discovered in digs in Kansas and are displayed in the ocean room.

Special exhibits are in the Woodland Park facility, including the world's only known partial *Pachycephalosaurus*. Don't miss the world's largest *Mosasauro* in the ocean room.

Educational exhibits depict what the earth may have been like millions of years ago, which dinosaurs were in Colorado and some castings of dinosaur tracks. Take a look at the fossilized dinosaur eggs. Learn about the "bone wars," when competing paleontologists descended upon Cañon City's Garden Area to dig up and remove dozens of specimens found there.

A favorite of visitors, a *Tyrannosaurus-Rex*, is on exhibit in the Dinosaur Research Center. This specimen is the fifth largest specimen ever found.

Dinosaur specimens seen in the Dinosaur Resource Center are on loan from TPI, cast from authentic specimens, reinforced with steel and assembled. This is typical for public displays because real, fossilized bones are quite heavy, fragile and require support or scaffolding.

Visitors can watch workers in the laboratory, as they clean and prepare specimens. Laboratory staff members are working on "Bert," a *Thescelosaurus*, a small herbivore and Pete, a *Daspletosaurus* — an ancestor of the T-Rex species.

Visitors may tour the facility on their own or inquire about guided tour groups. There are several guided tours during the day, depending upon employee availability. As tour times may change daily, call ahead, 686-1820, to sign up for a tour.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time:** half an hour
- **For ages:** all
- **Type:** dinosaur museum
- **Fun factor:** ★★★★★
(Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage:** \$\$
\$ = Less than \$20
\$\$ = \$21 to \$40
\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
\$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80
(Based on a family of four)



The *Albertasaurus* specimen is displayed in a fighting stance with an *Edmondasaurus* in the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center in Woodland Park.

Private group tours for a group of 10 or more can be arranged, with a special group rate.

A new group tour for adults is "Science for Life," which allows group members to hold fossils and watch casting and molding demonstrations.

In addition to the first-class exhibits at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Research Center, Prehistoric Paradise is an intriguing, first-class gift shop with all things dinosaur. Everyone who knows a dinosaur aficionado should do their holiday shopping in Woodland Park. Items range from clothing and jewelry to puzzles, books and chess sets. There are dinosaur-shaped back packs, T-shirts, caps and hats. Want a real fossil? Find it here — as a bug, leaf, or several fossils incorporated into a sink.

Souvenir photos are available — have a picture made with a dinosaur — \$10. A special holiday background will be available.

Hours are 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays; Sunday hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

In honor of Veterans Day, the Dinosaur Resource Center is half-price Saturday for military personnel and their families — just show military identification.

Regular admission to the Dinosaur Resource Center is \$9.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children ages 5 to 12. Children under 5 are admitted free. Show an active duty military identification and receive \$1 discount.

Memberships are also available.

Various private activities can be arranged at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, such as group sleepovers, corporate or unit parties.

The Resource Center also has special activities and exhibits throughout the year, including guest speakers.

To reach the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Center, take Interstate 25 north to the Cimarron Exit or Highway 115 to Cimarron Street, then



Chris Kelley uses an interactive station at Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center.

Highway 24 west to the town of Woodland Park, about 20 miles.

The center is at 201 S. Fairview St. in Woodland Park, on the south side of Highway 24, just after the second traffic light. Watch for the palm trees.



Readying a specimen requires intensive work in the laboratory of the discovery center.

Get Out!

Academy football

Only two more home games are at the Air Force Academy: Notre Dame is in the stadium Saturday and Utah plays there Nov. 18. Call the ticket office at 472-1895 to buy tickets or to ask about free tickets for military.

Concerts

Brad Paisley and American Idol winner Carrie Underwood are in concert Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the World Arena; call 576-2626, tickets start at \$47.

"The Who" is in the Pepsi Center in Denver Tuesday at 7 p.m.; call 520-9090; tickets start at \$52.

Vince Gill is in the Paramount Theater on the 16th Street Mall in Denver Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$45, call 520-9090.

"Barenaked Ladies" is at Magness Arena, 2201 E. Asbury Ave., at the University of Denver, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m., Call 520-9090 for tickets, which start at \$50.

Anne Murray is at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m., call 576-2626 for tickets

The TransSiberian Orchestra presents a concert at the World Arena Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Call 576-2626 for ticket information.

John Tesh presents a concert Dec. 16 at the World Arena, call 576-2626 for tickets.

The Lettermen's Christmas Show is at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Call the box office at 634-4497. Tickets start at \$15.

Big Head Todd and the Monsters present a 9:30 p.m. concert at the Paramount Theatre on the 16th Street Mall in Denver; call 520-9090; tickets start at \$55.

Andrea Bocelli presents a concert in Denver's Pepsi Center Dec. 9; call 520-9090 for tickets which start at \$55.

Veterans Day Parade

The annual Veterans Day Parade is Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. It is downtown, along Tejon Street, between St. Vrain and Vermijo. Parking is free for the parade, at meters, in city parking garages and in the parking garage under the Antlers Hotel. Call 282-3862 or go to www.csvetsparade.org

Pueblo also has a Veterans Day Parade Saturday, at 9:30 p.m. on B Street downtown along Union Avenue to Sixth Street.

Veterans Day ceremony

The annual Veterans Day ceremony, held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, will be in Memorial Park near the Veterans Memorial. Guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Eric Findley, Canadian Forces.

Free entry to Bent's Fort

All veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families may get in free at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site Saturday. The fort is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and guided tours are at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bent's Fort is east of La Junta, on Highway 194.

Free Veterans Day Florissant Fossil Beds National

Monument is free to all veterans and members of the Armed Forces and their families Saturday. The secretary of the Interior designated the free day as a "thank you." Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is south of the town of Florissant, on Highway 24 west of Colorado Springs.

Half-price on Veterans Day Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Discovery Center in Woodland Park offers active duty military and veterans half-price entry Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. See page 29 for a complete story about the center.

Flying W Ranch

The Flying W Ranch has dinner and a Western show in the winter steakhouse, open now through mid-May on Fridays and Saturdays. The menu includes steak for \$26; or trout, ribs, brisket or chicken for \$24. There's a reduced price for children under 8. Go online to www.flyingw.com or call 598-4000. The Flying W is at 3330 Chuckwagon Road.

Military family appreciation

Military Family Appreciation Week is Nov. 18-22, with specials sponsored by Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Get more information on "Out and About" page.

Compiled by Nel Lampe



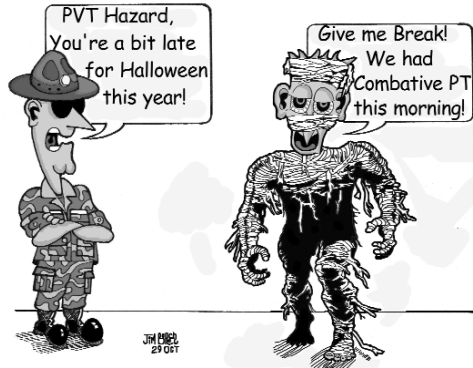
Mountaineer file photo

Veterans Day

The annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Colorado Springs is Saturday at 9 a.m. Fort Carson Soldiers, Humvees, Harmony in Motion and Fort Carson's Mounted Color Guard will participate. Parking for the parade is free in city-owned garages and at parking meters. Above, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery march in a previous parade.

New Hazard

by James Boroch

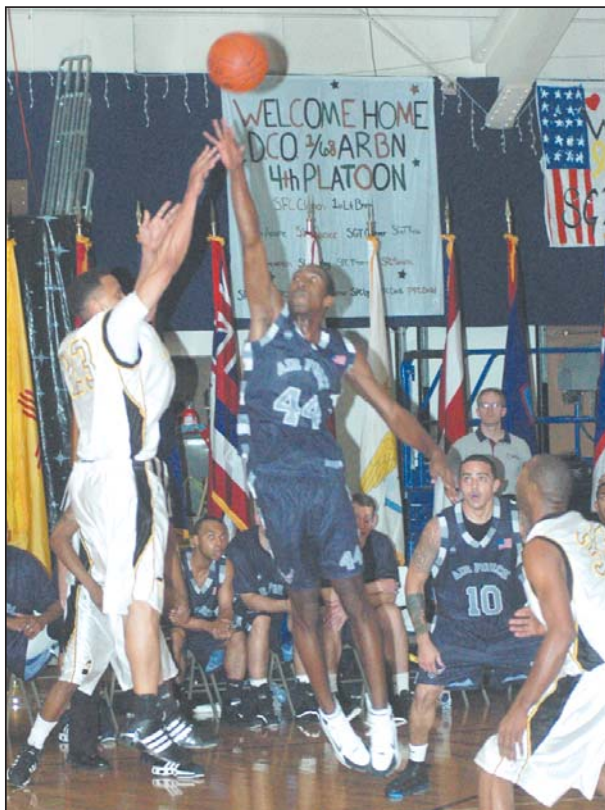


SPORTS & LEISURE

Army drops first game of interservice tourney



Army's Jeffrey Finch, right, dribbles upcourt under pressure from Air Force's Ricardo Batchelor.



Army's Craig Marcelin, left, shoots over the outstretched arms of Air Force's Tysen Pina.

Story and photos by
Walt Johnson

Mountaineer staff

In the second game Sunday night, the Air Force brought a big, athletic and talent-laden team into the game with the Army and raced to a 104-91 victory. Air Force quickly established its inside dominance as Tysen Pina scored on two thunderous dunk shots on two of its first five possessions.

Like the first game, it looked like Air Force would use its height advantage over Army to secure a victory, but the Army team showed that what it lacked in height, it more than made up for with experience and heart. Army fought hard against Air Force in the first half and took a 43-41 lead into halftime.

The game started to turn Air Force's way about five minutes into the second half as Drew Colon's quickness could not be matched on the perimeter and the Air Force inside game became dominant. Air Force slowly pulled away and earned its first victory of the tournament by defeating the home-standing Army team.

After the game, John Bailey, Air Force head coach, said his team played the game just as he wanted it

to, emphasizing team play and intelligence over athletic ability.

"This is the best way to start a tournament, with a win. We had a lot of one-on-one mismatches and we took advantage of them. We knew we would not be able to get into our offense, so we decided to take advantage of the mismatches we had. The key to success for us is our character and our ability to think the game on the floor. We have a team that can keep its focus under pressure," Bailey said.

"We have been telling our players that at this level, all the teams are equally talented and the team that can also think the game will have an advantage. We think basketball is 90 percent mental and we want to put ourselves in a position mentally that we can take advantage of every possession we have. We're still trying to get our team to think "basketball" because we feel the team that thinks the best will prevail in this tournament," Bailey added.

The Marines fired the first shot heard around the world Sunday as it defeated the defending Armed Forces Men's Basketball champions from

See **Hoops** on Page 36



Army's Vernardo Harris, right, outjumps Air Force's Tysen Pina for a rebound.

On the Bench

Academy seeks to offer Soldiers movie choices

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

Friday, the Air Force Academy women's and men's hoop teams will meet Wisconsin and Arkansas Pine Bluff, respectively. People can get free admission to the game by donating to Operation DVD, a program to collect new and used DVDs to send to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Academy officials ask that people "Please take a few minutes to look through your DVD library for DVDs you no longer watch. Perhaps you have DVDs that your children have outgrown. There are men and women serving overseas and servicemen's families stateside that would love to have those unwatched DVDs."

Academy officials added that Operation DVD program will offer these benefits: libraries of DVDs will be established at all bases in Iraq and Afghanistan for the entertainments of our Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Most bases have a reinforced recreation room equipped with a television and DVD player. Similar facilities exist on ships. service members with portable DVD players will

also be able to check DVDs out like a library book and return them for another. The project is to ultimately have 200-250 titles in rotation at each base. This may be the only safe entertainment some service members will have on their tour of duty. "Children's titles" donated will be distributed to service member's families Stateside. Academy officials said this program is especially important because safe entertainment is a concept that is difficult at best for our service members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rocky Mountain Sports Officials Association is looking for a few good men and women who are interested in being sports officials.

The association, which does the officiating for a lot of the military and civilian sports activities in Colorado Springs, is looking for officials who are interested in learning to be an official or who want to continue their career as officials. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the association should contact John Wyatt at 382-0199 or e-mail him at tophoopref@adelphia.net.



Photo by Walt Johnson

In your face

Finance's Francis Calar, right, blocks a scoring attempt during the opening night of intramural volleyball on post Thursday.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Jam session

Members of the youth center get in some slam-jam action during the monthly midnight basketball activity Friday. The youth center holds the activity the first Friday of each month.

Bench

From Page 34

A team that utilizes feats of strength to relay positive messages to people in churches, civic centers, stadiums, and coliseums nationally and internationally will hold a conference at the First Southern Baptist Church, 1409 Palmer Park Blvd., in Colorado Springs Wednesday through Nov. 19.

The conference will feature athletes who have performed the world's greatest exhibitions of power, strength, speed, inspiration, and motivation in every state and in more than 40 countries for almost 30 years according to Summer Williams, First Southern Baptist Church spokesperson.

The Power Team has several world record holders, former NFL football players, and professional wrestlers. They have been endorsed by more than 50 governors, senators, and congressmen for their positive contribution to the lives of America's youth. The various members of The Power Team are among America's most sought after speakers, encouraging people

to live a life of excellence and challenging them to be the best that they can be.

The Academy sports office has announced there will be complimentary tickets available to military enlisted members for all Academy home games in the sports of men's and women's basketball, hockey and volleyball.

The complimentary tickets will be available for the activity that is taking place during the current week's games. People at the Mountain Post who are interested in attending the games can call the Academy at 472-1895 and reserve tickets. There will be a limit of two tickets per person and the tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets must be picked up 48 hours prior to the game and no tickets will be available once the 48-hours before game time deadline has passed.

Air Force's next home football game will be Saturday when the Falcons host the Notre Dame Fighting Irish at 2 p.m. The game can also be seen on College Sports Television.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Ice breaker

Members of the Air Force and Marines interservice basketball teams enjoy a meal Saturday at the Elkhorn Lodge during the ice breaker ceremony for the 2006 Interservice Championships.

Hoops

From Page 33

Navy 85-81 in double overtime in the first game of the 2006 Men's championship here.

Early in the game, it didn't look like the story of the day would be the Marines' victory as Navy jumped out to a 22-17 lead and appeared to be cruising toward a victory. Navy could not extend its lead to double digits throughout the rest of the first half. Watching the Marines battling with them on even terms as halftime approached lent credence to Marines' Head Coach Dennis Murphy's words that the team would play hard and be competitive.

As the second half began, the Marines made a run that saw them catch Navy and take its first lead of the game at 43-41 with 10 minutes and 13 seconds left to play. With the momentum of having fought back to take the lead on its side, the Marines battled the bigger Navy team on even terms for the rest of the half, and the game was tied as the buzzer went off completing regulation play. In the first overtime, the Marines again matched the Navy shot for shot, but the Marines also were beginning to get in foul trouble as two of its starters fouled out of the game.

In the second overtime the Marines appeared to be the fresher of the two teams, racing out to a four-point lead early in the overtime and then held off the Navy to capture the victory.

Murphy was understandably proud of his team's efforts more than he was the victory over the defending champions. He said it brought out what the Marine Corps is all about.

"No one is going to outwork us, which is a tribute to being a Marine and what being a Marine stands for," Murphy said.

Mountaineer **Athlete of the Week**



Sharlene Franken

Sports Position: Bodybuilding competitor

Accomplishment: First place in the women's open middleweight and third place in women's master at the Natural Colorado Open Bodybuilding and Figure and Fitness competition Saturday in Denver.

What got you started in bodybuilding?

I played competitive sports (basketball and track) when I was younger, and as I got older and couldn't play competitive sports anymore, I still liked working out. I lifted for about 10 years before I decided to do it competitively and about two years ago I decided to go for it and compete in the sport of bodybuilding. Now my goals are to keep working at it, get better, make improvement and have fun with the sport.

Additional facts:

Since beginning body building competitively, Franken has placed first or second in every event she has participated in prior to Saturday's third place finish. She was the overall winner at the Southern Colorado

Mountaineer High School Sports



Trojans win

Fountain-Fort Carson Trojans defenders close in on a Cheyenne Mountain runner during action Friday at the high school. The Trojans won 28-7 and will now face Littleton High School in the first round of the state 4A championships Saturday at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. The game is Friday at 7 p.m.

Photo by Walt Johnson

Week 10 Football

College

1. Louisville vs. Rutgers
2. Tennessee vs. Arkansas
3. Georgia vs. Auburn
4. Alabama vs. LSU
5. Notre Dame vs. Air Force
6. Oregon vs. USC

Pigskin Picks



Ricardo Batchelor
All Air Force Basketball

1. Louisville, 2. Tennessee, 3. Auburn, 4. LSU, 5. Notre Dame, 6. USC, 7. Chargers, 8. Ravens, 9. Saints, 10. Redskins, 11. Bears, 12. Vikings, 13. Patriots, 14. Lions, 15. Seahawks, 16. Broncos, 17. Cowboys, 18. Panthers



Thomas Kromis
All Marine Basketball

1. Rutgers, 2. Tennessee, 3. Auburn, 4. LSU, 5. Notre Dame, 6. USC, 7. Chargers, 8. Ravens, 9. Steelers, 10. Eagles, 11. Bears, 12. Packers, 13. Patriots, 14. Lions, 15. Seahawks, 16. Broncos, 17. Cowboys, 18. Panthers



Kendric Fletcher
All Army Basketball

1. Louisville, 2. Tennessee, 3. Auburn, 4. Alabama, 5. Notre Dame, 6. USC, 7. Chargers, 8. Ravens, 9. Steelers, 10. Eagles, 11. Bears, 12. Vikings, 13. Patriots, 14. Lions, 15. Seahawks, 16. Broncos, 17. Cowboys, 18. Panthers



Karega McCollum
All Navy Basketball

1. Louisville, 2. Tennessee, 3. Auburn, 4. LSU, 5. Notre Dame, 6. USC, 7. Chargers, 8. Ravens, 9. Saints, 10. Eagles, 11. Bears, 12. Vikings, 13. Patriots, 14. 49ers, 15. Rams, 16. Broncos, 17. Cowboys, 18. Panthers

NFL

7. Chargers vs. Bengals
8. Ravens vs. Titans
9. Saints vs. Steelers
10. Redskins vs. Eagles
11. Bears vs. Giants
12. Packers vs. Vikings
13. Jets vs. Patriots
14. 49ers vs. Lions
15. Rams vs. Seahawks
16. Broncos vs. Raiders
17. Cowboys vs. Cardinals
18. Buccaneers vs. Panthers

